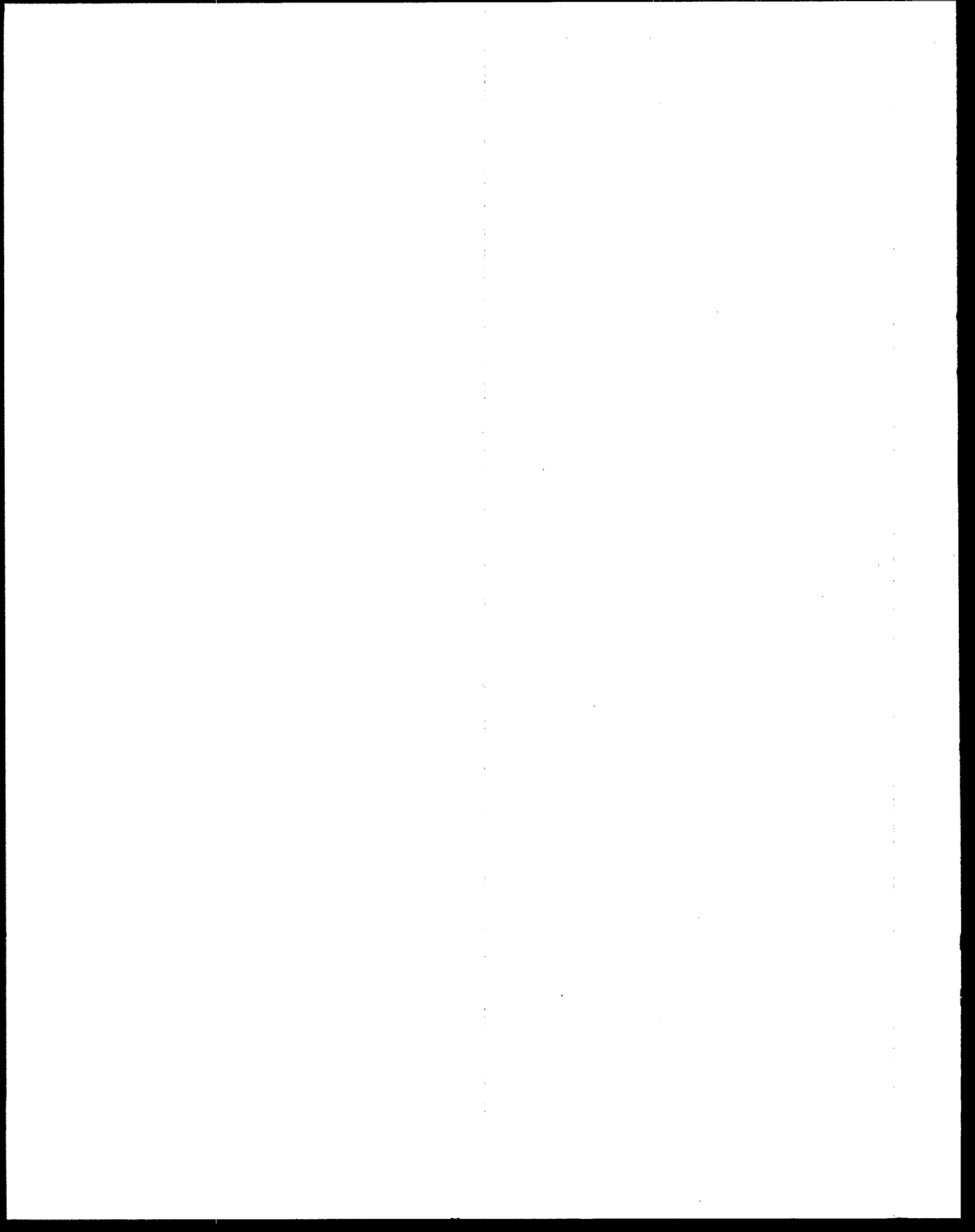


# Environmental Justice Small Grants

## Emerging Tools For Local Problem-Solving



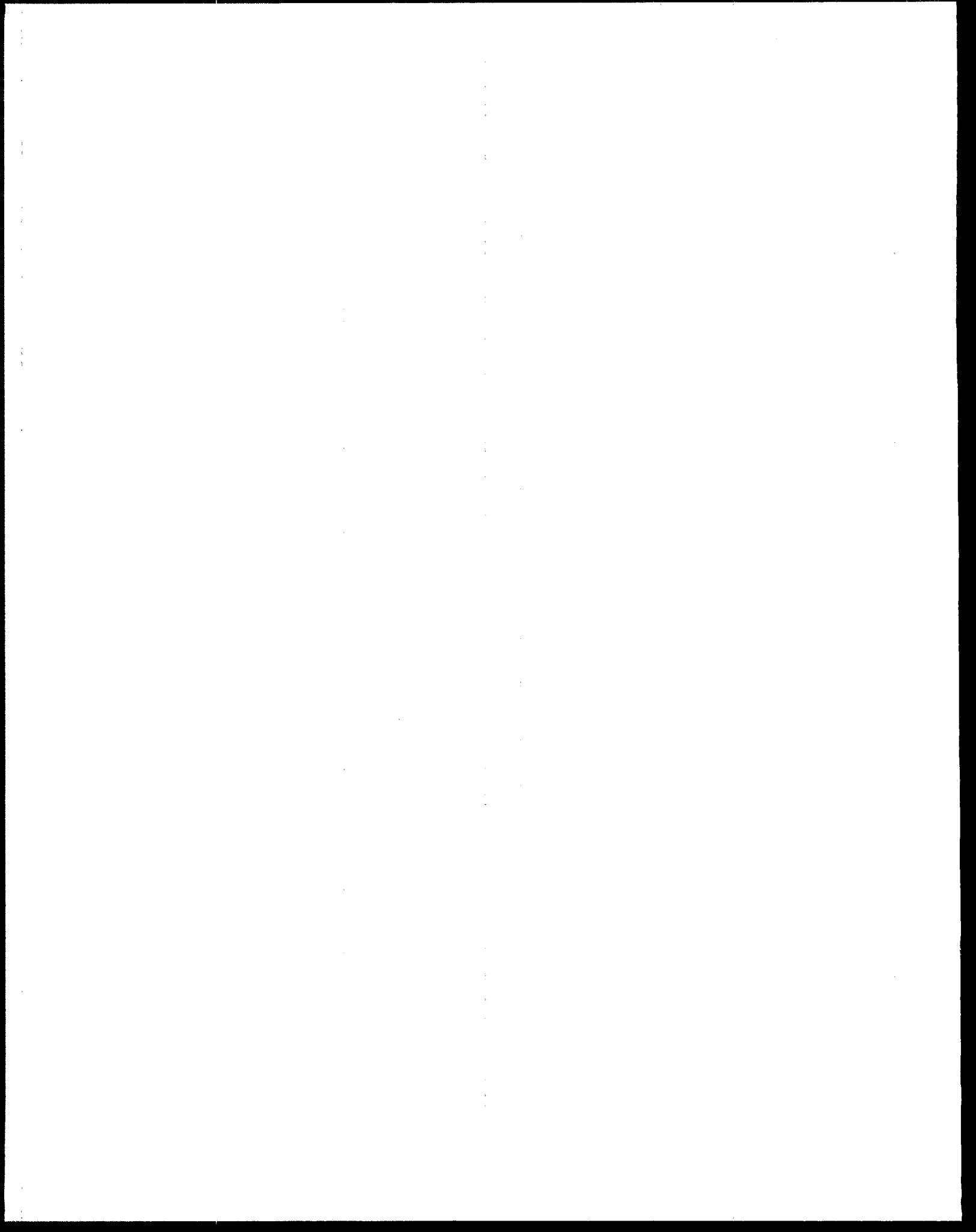


**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**  
*Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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# Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

## *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

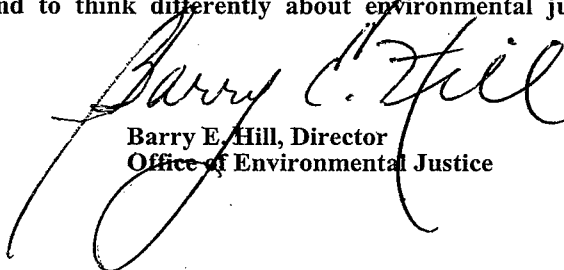
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### Preface

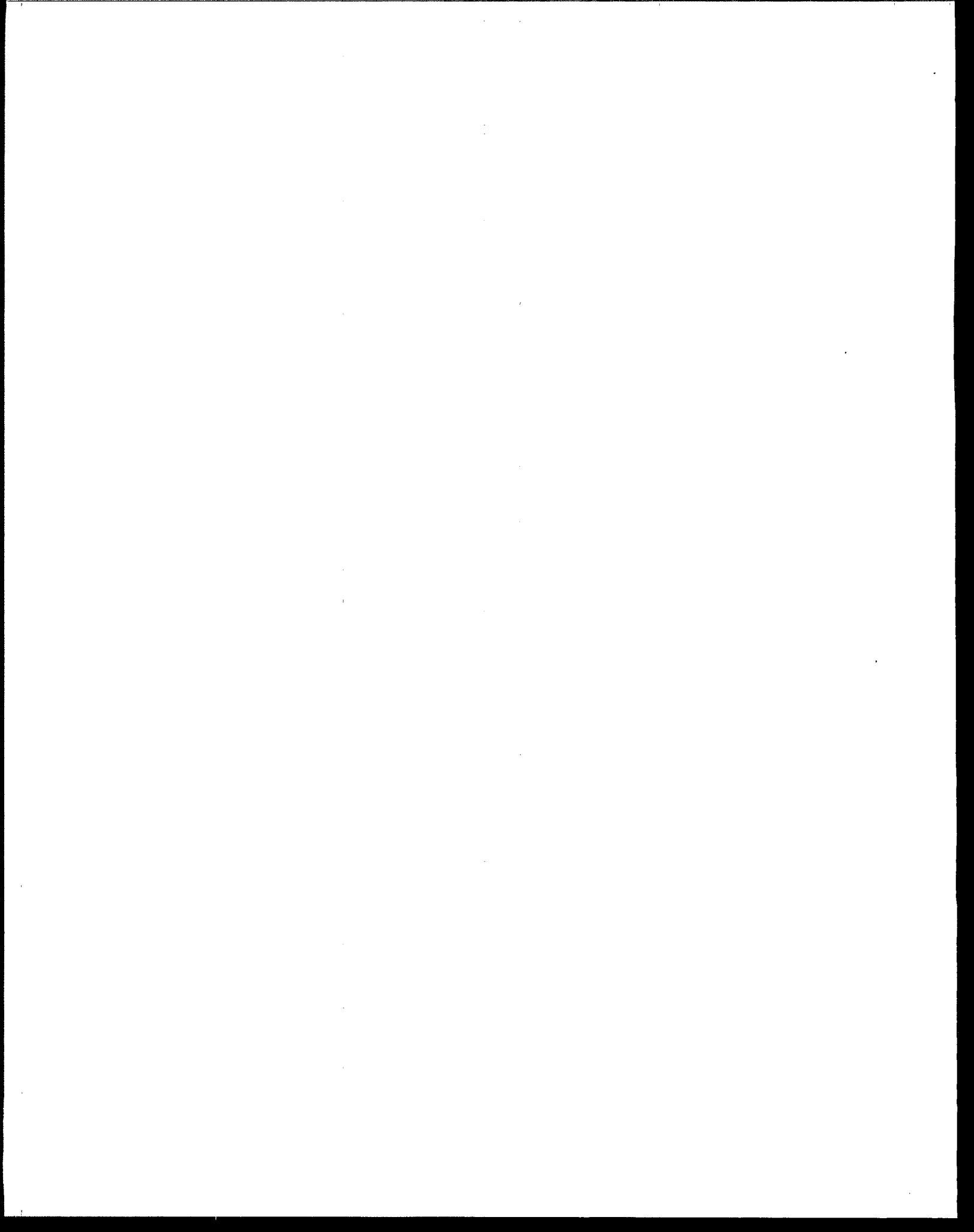
The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fosters collaborative and cooperative efforts directed at addressing and/or resolving real life environmental justice issues. This report describes a variety of programs and projects funded under the Small Grants Program that have made a difference. The EPA has made 530 small grants since July 1994 when the program began. Of these, 250 were initially selected as candidates for this report. After closer review, 46 were selected as the "best" success stories to demonstrate how diverse communities can come together in different ways to solve local problems. The groups represented in this report encompass the diversity of problems found in neighborhoods and communities across the country. As with all recipients of the small grants, the projects described here place a premium on community and family health. Some of the environmental issues and problems addressed by these specific projects include:

- Creating and implementing a community-based model for permanent solutions to polluted, abandoned land in low-income neighborhoods by producing *A Guide to Vacant Lots* booklet and establishing pollution of vacant lots as a top item on the municipal agenda.
- Educating the migrant farm worker community about coliform contamination on farms and in labor camps by conducting community awareness conferences and by involving the federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over the water supplied to the affected communities.
- Developing activities which promote awareness of the dangers of lead-based paint.
- Addressing health risks from specific environmental problems including air quality by developing educational materials and an education/outreach strategy on steps to reduce risks posed by environmental hazards in neighborhoods.
- Protecting the surface water and groundwater on Native American reservations by developing rational criteria for abandoned wells and strengthening the cooperative working relationships with non-tribal units of government.
- Providing an interactive approach to help children recognize and manage asthma symptoms, solve problems with medication and improve their academic performance by introducing Open Airways for Schools, an innovative asthma education program for children ages eight to eleven.

These are just a few examples of some of the emerging tools that communities use to address local public health and environmental problems. In addition to improving conditions in the communities described in the report, the case studies are models of success that can be applied in similar situations across the country. We find these programs and projects inspiring, and hope that by highlighting these case studies we will help others to find ways to solve their local problems and to think differently about environmental justice issues in their communities.



Barry E. Hill, Director  
Office of Environmental Justice



## **Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

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### ***Introduction***

This publication is a compilation of information about 46 of the hundreds of grants that have been awarded through the EPA Small Grants Program which reflect some of the support EPA gives to community-based organizations. EPA has supported communities through partnerships, research, communication and public participation to help ensure a more just and fair distribution of environmental benefits as well as environmental burdens. This document describes community projects representing six focus areas: Water Quality, Air Quality, Lead & Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Pollution Prevention, Vacant Land Reuse, and Environmental Stewardship. Our purpose is to: (1) inform communities and show them how to link or implement similar projects and programs; (2) reduce duplication of effort; (3) strengthen the networking of organizations; (4) improve the quality of future projects; and (5) provide lessons learned from completed projects. Appendix A is a list of projects by state.

This 1999 publication is the first national publication to highlight the accomplishments of the grant recipients under the Small Grants Program. It covers grants awarded from the beginning of the Small Grants program in 1994 through 1997. In subsequent years a Small Grants Program accomplishments report will be published biannually and will include those successes from the previous two years.

### ***What is Environmental Justice?***

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Environmental justice is about local people facing local problems by working collaboratively with the local government agencies, impacted community groups and the responsible state and/or federal agencies. Environmental justice promotes environmental and public health protection within the context of sustainable development.

## **Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

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### ***EPA's Role in Environmental Justice***

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," which identified three goals:

- to focus federal agency action on the environment and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities;
- to promote nondiscriminating in federal programs that substantially affect human health and the environment; and
- to provide minority communities and low-income communities greater access to information on, and opportunities for public participation in, matters relating to human health and the environment.

The President encouraged federal agencies to reinvent the way we approach environmental justice so that our day-to-day efforts would be more effective in protecting the public health and environment. EPA was given a leadership role in helping federal agencies implement this Executive Order.

### ***Why the Small Grants Program was Developed***

EPA recognized that community involvement was critical to environmental decision-making and made a commitment to invest resources in projects that would financially benefit affected communities. In Fiscal Year 1994, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) established the Small Grants Program to provide financial assistance for addressing local environmental problems to eligible community groups which included community-based/grassroots organizations, churches, other nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments.

Each year approximately \$2 million is made available for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program and divided equally among the ten EPA regions where the actual grant is awarded and managed. Awards range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each. The amount available in a given year may vary depending on the availability of funds. The table on page 3 shows the grants awarded since the program began.



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#### ***Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Summary***

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>\$ Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Awards</u></b>
1994	500,000	71
1995	3,000,000	175
1996	2,800,000	152
1997	2,700,000	139
1998	2,500,000	123
1999	2,000,000	*

**\*To Be Announced by October 1, 1999**

### ***The Grant Selection Process***

The grant proposals submitted for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program are evaluated, within the EPA region where the project is located, through a competitive review and ranking process. Award decisions are made within each region based on established criteria which include geographic and socioeconomic balance, diversity of project recipients, and sustainability of benefits of project after the grant is completed. The review process also gave a higher priority to proposals that demonstrate strong community involvement at the proposal development stage.

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**REGION I**

***Baystate Medical Center, Inc.***  
***Western Massachusetts SafeKids Coalition***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ991035	Shirley Laroche	\$20,000	Lead and Carbon Monoxide
	Baystate Medical Center, Inc.	FY 1997	Poisoning
	Springfield, MA 01199		

**Target Audience:**

African-American and Latino children exposed to lead and carbon monoxide poisoning in Springfield/Holyoke, Massachusetts.

**Purpose:**

To reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal injuries experienced in this region of the state by providing children and their families with safety information through training and awareness events, including "train the trainer" programs so that more communities can be educated.

**Goals:**

- To improve the lead screening rates and reduce the lead blood levels among minority children living in old housing.
- To introduce methods of reducing indoor air pollution in the homes.

**Methods:**

- Develop an education curriculum for members of high-risk communities on how to prevent lead and carbon monoxide poisoning in their children.
- Collect data from the focus groups to develop a survey instrument in order to gather information on knowledge level, beliefs and attitudes about lead and carbon monoxide exposure as well as demographic information on the surveyed population.

**Products/Results:**

A survey was distributed to parents and caretakers of young children and a "train-the-trainer" curriculum was developed that focused on lead and carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide poisoning and *STOP Lead Poisoning* brochures were developed and distributed in English and Spanish. The following were also developed in English and Spanish: *STOP Lead Poisoning* Poster; *Wash Your Hands* Video; *Bright Futures: An Action Guide for Families of Children with Lead Poisoning*.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The survey was used to educate parents on how to protect their own children, how to have better communication with care providers, and how to interpret housing deleading regulations. Many children were tested at no charge following the survey. Community members received a curriculum's guide which included training materials to present at future community workshops on preventing lead and carbon monoxide poisoning.

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## **Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

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#### ***Bridgeport Water Quality Community Outreach Project***

##### ***Save the Sound, Inc.***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ991697	Steven Yergeau Save the Sound, Inc. Stamford, CT 06902	\$19,898 FY 1996	Water Quality

#### **Target Audience:**

Low-income African-American and Puerto Rican/Latino families in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

#### **Purpose:**

To involve African-American and Latino residents of Bridgeport in taking action to improve the water quality of their own Long Island Sound harbors, Black Rock and Bridgeport.

#### **Goals:**

- To educate targeted community about coastal water quality including point and non-point source pollution, conditions of local harbors and beaches, dangers of eating contaminated fish and actions that can be taken to improve water quality.
- To expand the community participation in a volunteer water quality monitoring program by using hands-on activities to solve local water quality issues.

#### **Methods:**

- Hold monthly planning meetings with members of the community.
- Recruit and train volunteers for the implementation of action projects and also train residents to monitor the water quality of local harbors.
- Conduct community meetings (two in Spanish, and two in English) and outreach tools through distribution of pamphlets in both English and Spanish.

#### **Products/Results:**

Ten monthly meetings were held to discuss and coordinate various action projects. Thirteen Americorps volunteers were trained on issues regarding water quality. In addition, 20 youths from the

community created a traveling display showing the impact of non-point source pollution on Bridgeport water quality and how to reduce this pollution.

Six volunteers participated in the water quality monitoring program and regular testing of Bridgeport Harbor, and eleven students from Bridgeport Community Vocational Aquaculture School monitored Black Rock Harbor.

More than 100 storm drains were stenciled by thirty-one fourth through sixth graders and four parents. Display of pamphlets and diverse activities were exhibited at different locations such as libraries and community facilities in Bridgeport.

Several events were advertised in local newspapers and public television and through press releases.

About 105 volunteers participated in other projects to improve local coastal water quality, while another 90 people attended training or presentations on the issues. Thirty-two people participated in a beach clean up.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The community's participation in all the action projects brought a lot of enthusiasm and pride. Bridgeport residents continued to volunteer for activities to improve water quality. The project reached a large audience through newspaper articles and television coverage of activities. With the storm drains stenciling program people are more aware about water quality protection. Information will continue to be displayed throughout the City of Bridgeport to educate people. The relationship between the partners is strengthened as a result of this project.

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#### ***Environmental Teacher Sabbatical Program New England Aquarium***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ991037	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> William Spitzer New England Aquarium Central Wharf Boston, MA 02110-3399	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1997	<b>Focus:</b> Environmental Stewardship
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**Target Audience:**

Middle school teachers in the Boston Public Schools.

**Purpose:**

To establish an environmental teacher sabbatical program for 14 middle school teachers and to support its dissemination through the network of Coastal America Regional Ecosystem Learning Centers.

**Goals:**

- Strengthen partnerships among the New England Aquarium, Boston Public Schools, and Coastal America agencies to develop a core group of trained teachers who are prepared to impart environmental stewardship skills among Boston's schoolchildren.

**Methods:**

- Designed a sabbatical program for teachers from public schools in Boston's low-income communities.
- Developed a brochure describing the purpose of the sabbatical program and sent it to all science teachers in Boston.

**Products/Results:**

Fourteen teachers were selected based on the strengths of their applications. The training program included orientation and tours, mini-workshops, individual consultation with Teacher Resource Center staff, independent time for individual projects, presentations and field trips led by environmental experts, and journal writing.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Teachers' responses to the program were very positive. They reported that being together created an atmosphere of collegiality often missing in their daily school practice. They have learned more about scientific tools and techniques and gained an appreciation of the importance of environmental education. They increased their familiarity with many environmental resources available at the Aquarium and elsewhere that they could take back to their classrooms. The teacher sabbatical program was presented as a model at a learning center conference in New York.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Grassroots Revival for the Environmental Empowerment of Neighborhoods Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy (CHisPA)***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ 991687010	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> Christina Abuelo 421 Elmwood Avenue Providence, RI 02907	<b>EPA Funding</b> 17,000 FY 1996	<b>Focus:</b> Vacant Land Reuse
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**Target Audience:**

Project GREEN targeted low-income neighborhoods in Providence, RI. The community is made up of African American (40%), Latino (40%) and Caucasian (20%) families.

**Purpose:**

To create and implement a community-based model for permanent solutions to polluted, abandoned land in Providence's low-income neighborhoods.

**Goals:**

- Motivate the general public to be more conscious of their local environmental justice issues and involve the community in efforts to address these concerns.
- Enhance community understanding of environmental information and seek technical experts to demonstrate how to access, analyze, and interpret public environmental data.

**Methods:**

- Form a workgroup to identify and implement community participation mechanisms for the Mayor's Vacant Land Task Force.
- Conduct a multilingual community forum to inform at least 50 neighborhood residents about relevant environmental information.
- Survey vacant lots in the South Side and West End areas of the city to prioritize areas of greatest need.

**Products/Results:**

A Guide to Vacant Lots booklet was produced by

Project GREEN and the Department of Planning and Development. A technical expert was present at the multilingual community forum and interpreted environmental dangers and threats resulting from pollution and neglect of vacant land. Community members were recruited to work with the Brown University Center for Environmental Studies to test soil and water samples on vacant land. Residents were identified to undergo further training to assess environmental pollutants on vacant land in their neighborhoods.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Project GREEN is responsible for more than 100 lots cleaned by city worker crews. The Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy (CHisPA), and other partner organizations successfully pushed pollution of vacant lots to the top of the municipal agenda. CHisPA has built a new cadre of informed neighbors who are ready to win and put to use the implementation of real land reform measures. Project GREEN has also created a successful strategy of working with community residents and supporting organizations to stop pollution permanently through real land reform.

###

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#### ***Pollution Prevention and Worker Safety Program***

#### ***New Hampshire Coalition for Health & Safety***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ991009-01-0

**Project Coordinator:**  
Paul G. Morse  
NH COSH  
110 Sheep Davis Road  
Pembroke, NH 03275

**EPA Funding:** \$20,000  
FY 1997

**Focus:** Pollution Prevention

**Target Audience:**

Workers and community residents, especially Latinos and Asians, in the inner-city neighborhoods of Manchester, New Hampshire.

**Purpose:**

To identify sources of pollution such as small businesses and industries that potentially threaten the public health and the local environment.

**Goals:**

- To empower workers and community members to identify environmental problems and create solutions to them through the process of community awareness and understanding of consequences of pollution in their community.

**Methods:**

- Organized a community meeting where several workgroups were established to develop different projects related to risk-mapping and tracking of different sources of information.
- Developed a community health survey for use by agencies and local organizations as well as door-to-door.
- Contacted youth groups and schools for possible participation in air monitoring or related types of environmental justice projects.

- Discussed findings from the map with key community partners and shared information with regulators, policymakers, the media and other relevant bodies.

**Products/Results:**

Developed a community inventory map that showed how low-income housing and poverty measured against a number of health and environmental concerns. A report was developed which detailed a variety of information related to hazardous waste releases and emissions such as auto finishers, dry cleaners, nail salons, print shops, as well as small manufacturing and electronic shops. The information from the community survey was also presented in that report.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The New Hampshire Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (NH COSH) produced a "risk map" of Central Manchester which included three overlays which showed: (1) confirmed lead-poisoning cases; (2) schools, playgrounds, parks and churches; and (3) print shops, automotive shops, nail salons, dry cleaners, and other potentially hazardous areas. A copy of each map was sent to the Environmental Protection Department's (EPD) pretreatment program to implement environmentally sound practices in some of the shops listed on the maps.

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# Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

## *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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### REGION II

#### *Citizens Committee for New York City*

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ992451-01	Michael E. Clark 305 Seventh Avenue, 15 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10001	\$20,000 FY 1995	Environmental Stewardship

#### **Target Audience:**

Residents of low-income and/or Latin, African-American and Asian neighborhoods in the Bronx.

#### **Purpose:**

To establish a chapter of the Neighborhood Environmental Leadership Institute (NELI). The NELI is an environmental training and education program that works through community partnerships to build and support environmental leadership.

#### **Goals:**

- To educate, train and transfer skills to more than 150 grassroots neighborhood leaders from low-income and minority neighborhoods in the Bronx.
- To develop an Environmental Justice Resource Guide to help grassroots groups throughout NYC take advantage of resources available to support environmental justice activities.
- To effect a reduction in the number of City residents exposed to harmful conditions.
- To increase the capacity of new and existing grassroots groups to make measurable improvements in reducing hazardous conditions affecting low-income and under-served neighborhoods.

#### **Methods**

- Community outreach was conducted through a mailing to more than 15,000 block and neighborhood organizations. Responses to more than 5,000 technical assistance requests were received annually.

- Interactive training workshops covered effective meetings and agendas; effective outreach techniques; fostering new leadership; coalition building; fund-raising; public communication skills; lead poisoning prevention; community initiated planning and fair share laws; and funds available for environmental justice programs.
- Neighborhood leaders received Certificates of Completion from the Continuing Education Department of Lehman College of the City University of New York.

#### **Products/Results:**

A grant maker's forum was held and provided neighborhood leaders with an opportunity to meet representatives from key foundations and organizations that provide technical and financial support for environmental programs. Approximately 125 neighborhood leaders became graduates of the institute.

The Environmental Justice Resource Directory was updated and expanded and staff conducted more than 2,000 technical assistance phone consultations during the year.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas (CATA)***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ992445-01	Jamie Suarez-Potts 4 S. Delsea Drive P.O. Box 510 Glassboro, NJ 08028	\$20,000 FY 1995	Water Quality

#### **Target Audience:**

Community-at-large and the farm worker community in Southern New Jersey.

#### **Purpose:**

To educate the migrant farm worker community about the coliform contamination in farms, labor camps, and the general nitrate contamination of Southern New Jersey wells as a result of agricultural practices.

#### **Goals:**

- To empower farm workers to take an active part in protecting themselves and their families from health problems due to drinking contaminated well water.
- To build relationships with local, state, and federal agencies to facilitate better communication and to develop resolutions to the contamination.

#### **Methods:**

- In conjunction with migrant health clinics, workers were educated about how to protect themselves from drinking contaminated water.
- Community-awareness conferences were conducted to educate the broader community about the dangers of nitrate contamination and to make them aware of the possibility that the water in farm labor camps may be contaminated with coliform.
- Contact was made with those federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over the water supplies of the affected communities.

#### **Products/Results:**

Workers tested and proved that 34% of the water wells that service migrant farm workers in New Jersey were contaminated with either fecal coliforms, nitrates and/or other bacteria. CATA and the New Jersey Environmental Federation formed the Southern New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Coalition, a collection of farm workers, environmental groups, students and concerned citizens that work on various water quality issues. With the assistance of EPA Region II, CATA met with the U.S. Department of Labor, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Department of Health. It was agreed upon by the group that the local Departments of Health in the southern counties of New Jersey would test 50% of the water wells on farm labor camps during the farm season.

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**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**  
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***REGION III***

***Tinbridge Hill Neighborhood Council***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ-993455-01	Aubrey Barbour 94 Polk Street Lynchburg, VA 24504	\$19,745 FY 1996	Lead-Based Paint Education

**Target Audience:**

Young adults and communities exposed to the dangers of lead-based paint in Lynchburg, VA.

**Purpose:**

To develop activities to promote awareness among the communities on the dangers of lead-based paint.

**Goals:**

- To provide opportunities for young adults to get training on lead poisoning prevention.
- To educate young adults on lead poisoning prevention.

**Methods:**

- Distribute cleaning kits to families.
- Educate families on improving their cleaning methods.
- Teach families the dangers of lead poisoning.
- Complete the residential dust wipe test.

**Products/Results:**

The Tinbridge Hill group developed a video in which they performed a program geared to educate people in lead dust reduction cleaning techniques.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The community's awareness and education on lead-based paint poisoning issues increased.

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### *African-American Men on a Mission*

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ993441-01	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> Lynn Pinder P.O. Box 27021 Baltimore, MD 21230	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1996	<b>Focus:</b> Lead-Based Paint Reduction
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**Target Audience:**  
African-American communities in Baltimore, MD.

**Purpose:**  
To develop activities which promote awareness among the African-American communities in Baltimore of the dangers of lead-based paint.

- Goals:**
- To provide opportunities to young adults to receive training on lead poisoning prevention.
  - To educate young adults to promote awareness of lead poisoning prevention.

- Methods:**
- Distribute cleaning kits to families.

- Educate families on improving their cleaning methods.
- Teach families the dangers of lead poisoning.
- Complete the residential dust wipe test.

**Products/Results:**  
Increased knowledge of lead-based paint prevention.

**Successes/Strengths:**  
Increased community awareness of the lead-based paint poisoning prevention issues and educated students on solutions and prevention.

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**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**  
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***National Hispanic Council on Aging***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ993603-01	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> Marta Sotomayer 2713 Ontario Road, NW Washington, DC 20009	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1997	<b>Focus:</b> Environmental Stewardship
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**Target Audience:**  
Hispanic communities in Washington, D.C.

**Purpose:**  
To increase the communities capacity to identify and understand the local environmental issues and how these issues affect their lives.

- Goals:**
- Increase community awareness of environmental issues.
  - Develop information and educational materials in Spanish on environmental concerns.

- Methods:**
- Holding informational forums.
  - Constructing community cleanups and beautification projects.

- Developing local networks of Spanish-speaking newspapers.
- Exchanging environmental information among local neighborhoods.

- Products/Results:**
- Newsletters
  - Educational Materials.

**Successes/Strengths:**  
Establishing a successful foundation for future environmental activities.

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#### ***The Coalition to End Lead Poisoning, Inc. - Get the Lead Out! Environmental Justice Empowerment Project***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ-993932-01	Ruth Ann Norton 2714 Hudson Street Baltimore, MD 21224	\$20,000 FY 1998	Lead Education

**Target Audience:**

Families and individuals at risk of lead poisoning in Baltimore City.

**Purpose:**

To provide resources and information to the community about lead poisoning.

**Goals:**

- To create more lead resource centers in "at risk" communities.
- To expand current centers.
- To offer families access to a lead-safe housing registry, HEPA-vacuum cleaners, lead-dust cleaning kits, and the CLEAR Corps Program.

**Methods:**

- Outreach and public education.
- Training of citizens in lead-dust cleaning and identification methods.

- Development of a registry of lead-safe housing.

**Products/Results:**

Products included: (1) developing a registry of lead-safe housing in Baltimore; (2) numerous training sessions for parents; and (3) providing HEPA-vacuums and other abatement equipment to residents in at-risk communities.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Housing registry, educational and training sessions for parents, strong community involvement, ties to the CLEAR Corps Program and its involvement with citizens in targeted areas.

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#### **Anacostia Watershed Society**

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ-993450-01	Robert Boone 4302 Baltimore Avenue Bladensburg, MD 20710	\$20,000 FY 1996	Water Quality

#### **Target Audience:**

Residents of the Anacostia Watershed

#### **Purpose:**

To provide technical assistance and expertise on environmental issues of concern to citizens in the Anacostia community. The strategy was to network with, and build collaboration between, urban community groups to develop activities and to promote awareness among the communities.

#### **Goals:**

- To raise awareness among the residents of the Anacostia Watershed about the environment and their relationship to it.
- To educate residents about the actions they can take to protect the watershed.
- To establish and strengthen local civic institutions and coalitions to enable citizen involvement in the decision-making process on environmental matters.
- To utilize and create technical resources for residents.

#### **Methods:**

- An environmental justice tour of DC for 32 members of the Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life.
- A clean-up and storm drain stenciling project with the Kingman Park Civic Association, a local civic association whose members live adjacent to the river and are active in neighborhood preservation. Twenty members of the association also took a canoe trip down

the river later in the season.

- Clean up of Pope's Branch, a neighborhood tributary of the Anacostia River.
- Three slide shows for two more local civic associations, Penn Branch and Fort Dupont Park, and for the Anacostia Coordinating Council, which depict the environmental problems along the Anacostia and show solutions to the problems.

#### **Products/Results:**

An environmental justice tour of DC for 32 members of the Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life. A clean up and storm drain stenciling project with the Kingman Park Civic Association, a local civic association, whose members live adjacent to the river and are active in neighborhood preservation. Twenty members of the association also took a canoe trip down the river later in the season. Clean up of Pope's Branch, a neighborhood tributary of the Anacostia River. Slide shows on the environmental problems and solutions on the Anacostia to two more local civic associations - Penn Branch and Fort Dupont Park - and the Anacostia Coordinating Council, a community-based organization.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The importance of educating homeowners and other civic association members and community decision-makers about the problems of the Anacostia River and how they can be part of the solution is what made this project a success.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### REGION IV

### *Jesus People Against Pollution "Coming to the Light" Video*

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ994785-95-0	Charlotte Keys, President and Executive Director P.O. Box 765 Columbia, MS 39429	\$19,750 FY 1995	Environmental Stewardship

**Target Audience:**

Citizens of Columbia, Mississippi, community activists, businesses, educational institutions and environmental networks.

**Purpose:**

To document the impact of toxic wastes from a local chemical plant on the citizens of Columbia, Mississippi, and produce a video tape. The tape will provide documentation of off-site dumping areas and the "true life" stories of various groups in the community.

**Goals:**

- To educate community residents about the potential danger of toxic wastes to their health.
- To motivate the citizens of Columbia to supply crucial information on environmental justice.
- To document the community's efforts in the continuing cleanup process.
- To develop/ produce a video as a tool to educate other community groups confronted with similar environmental issues.

**Methods:**

- Investigate and identify individuals who have knowledge of prior long standing dumping activities.
- Detail the plight of the community efforts in identifying the health problem with toxic

dumping.

- Create a video documentary regarding the off-site dumping and health problems in the community.

**Products/Results:**

A video documentary as a way of further engaging the community residents and leaders to continue to publicize the health issues that confront the community.

The affected community, state and local agencies, as well as federal officials, have a better understanding of the hidden history of the environmental problems in Columbia, Mississippi, after watching the "Coming to the Light" video.

In addition, the video can be used by other community groups or educational institutions as a way of orienting them to the environmental justice problems that may exist in their community.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The overall information gained contributes to educating the community on environmental justice. Also, the collaborative working relationship between community members and professionals that understand the in-depth environmental problems has enhanced the community's leadership skills and provided knowledge to deal with its struggle for equal justice.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority***

#### ***Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development Primer***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ994775-95-0	Sulaiman Mahdi	\$20,000	Environmental
	Fulton Atlanta Community Action	FY 1995	Stewardship
	Authority		
	75 Piedmont Avenue, NE		
	Atlanta, GA 30303		

#### **Target Audience:**

The target audience of this project is primarily the residents of Atlanta, Georgia's Empowerment Zone communities. Also included are community development corporations, neighborhood planning units, civic associations, policy-makers, environmental organizations, and other interested parties.

#### **Purpose:**

To provide residents of the Atlanta Empowerment Zone communities, community leaders, policy-makers, and other interested parties, with information on the Empowerment Zone Initiative, the status of the environment, environmental justice, and sustainable community development. This project is accomplished by publishing a primer and workshop material that will provide such information, along with community forums and workshops.

#### **Goals:**

- Facilitate communication and information exchange, and create partnerships among all parties to address disproportionately high exposure to adverse environmental conditions.
- Enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information systems and generate information about pollution in the community.
- Demonstrate how to access and interpret public environmental data.

#### **Methods:**

- Identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among all involved parties, including existing community-based/grassroots organizations, and state, tribal, federal environmental programs.
- Organize and enlist the assistance of policy-makers to address environmental concerns within the Zone.
- Distribute the primer at Empowerment Zone Town Hall Meetings, and Environmental and Sustainable Community Development Conference and Workshops.

#### **Products/Results:**

Use the primer information as a tool to help organize residents of the Atlanta Empowerment Zone and other interested parties into an environmental justice and sustainable development coalition, which will address the environmental problems and environmental inequities of the Empowerment Zone and the City of Atlanta.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The benefits gained from this project are the publications that will enhance understanding of the environmental problems of the Atlanta Empowerment Zone and tools that will aid in solving these problems.

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#### ***Vanderbilt University Center for Health Services Service Training and Environmental Progress (STEP)***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ994790-95-0

**Project Coordinator:**  
Barbara Clinton, Director  
P.O. Box 567, Station 17  
Nashville, TN 37232

**EPA Funding:** \$7,000  
FY 1995

**Focus:** Environmental Stewardship

**Target Audience:**

Low-income communities and communities of color in Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee.

**Purpose:**

To provide education and technical assistance to affected communities, as well as deal with complex environmental threats. STEP recognizes that grassroots groups are one of the most effective ways that American citizens have to exercise their "people power." STEP enhances citizen activism while it educates young adults through exposure to community activity around environmental issues.

**Goals:**

- To provide six weeks of on site technical assistance to two primarily African-American Chattanooga Creek communities.
- To establish a program that will continue to serve as a resource of information for community groups by disseminating information about technical assistance and other environmental issues.

**Methods:**

- Recruit eight youths from the Chattanooga Youth Crop who live in the affected neighborhoods to work with the STEP interns to conduct the survey.
- Conduct a door-to-door health survey to identify individuals who may suffer from ill health as a result of exposure to contaminants from Chattanooga Creek.

**Products/Results:**

The health survey was used by community leaders and Department of Health officials to educate health professionals at clinics frequented by area residents and homeless persons about contamination from Chattanooga Creek.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The participants provided direct community health education on use of the creek for recreation and fishing, through community forums and presentations that they conducted in churches and community centers throughout Alton Park and Piney Woods. The STEP interns also participated in discussions about their work on local radio talk shows, and were featured in articles in the Chattanooga Sun Times and the Chattanooga Free Press.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Project Awake***

#### ***Sumter County's Environmental Awareness Project "Environmental Wise"***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ994068-96-0	Daisy Carter Executive Director Route 2, Box 282 Caotopa, AL 35470	\$20,000 FY 1996	Environmental Stewardship

**Target Audience:**

Citizens of Sumter County, Alabama.

**Purpose:**

To help citizens of Sumter County become more knowledgeable and conscious of environmental problems and issues affecting their health and well-being.

**Goals:**

- Inform leaders who are responsible for their community about environmental threats to their surroundings.
- Motivate the citizens of Sumter County to become involved in helping create a safer and healthier environment.
- Increase citizen participation in planning and attending workshops, forums, community meetings, regional meetings and hearings.

**Methods:**

- Disseminate information on environmental issues through public service announcements and fliers.
- Publish and distribute monthly newsletters.

**Products/Results:**

Influenced the county commission to eliminate all public dumping sites in Sumter County. Selected a group of middle school students to participate in the Water Watch Program. Conducted seminars and public meetings to address concerns of local communities regarding pesticides and alternative methods.

**Successes/Strengths:**

This project created an information base for the citizens of Sumter County. This awareness has enabled citizens to become more involved in confronting and resolving environmental issues. The establishment of resources for environmental justice enabled this organization to become more involved in community ecological preservation.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Catawba Indian Nation Ecosystem Protection Management Plan***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ994967-96-0	Dean Canty	\$20,000	Water Quality
	Environmental Planner	FY 1996	
	P. O. Box 188		
	Catawba, SC 29704		

**Target Audience:**  
Members of the Catawba Indian Nation

**Purpose:**  
To develop a protection plan that will be used to guide the Catawba Indian Nation in protecting their environmental and natural resources. The areas of concern were water quality, soil erosion, soil surveys, forestry, cultural, solid waste, air quality, and fish and wildlife.

**Goals:**

- Identify the Best Management Practices to use on Catawba Indian Nation tribal lands.
- Provide an assessment of overall ecosystem management practices needed for eliminating pollution of tribal waters, air and land.
- Establish an environmental and natural resource management plan.

**Methods:**

- Establish an Environmental/Natural Resources Advisory Committee.
- Gather information on the tribal land's water quality and air quality from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, South Carolina Forestry Commission, South Carolina Catawba River Task Force,

and York County.

- Assess the environmental and natural resource problems in order of importance: (1) water quality, (2) soil erosion, (3) forestry, (4) cultural, (5) solid waste, (6) air quality, and (7) fish and wildlife.

**Products/Results:**

A protection plan for Best Management Practices that will be a valuable tool for the Catawba Nation tribal lands.

The Environmental/Natural Resources Advisory Committee will continue operating as a permanent committee and will provide recommendations for future environmental and natural resource concerns.

The Ecosystem Management Plan has been approved and adopted by the Catawba Indian Nation of South Carolina Tribal Executive Council.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The Ecosystem Protection Management Plan will assist in improving the environmental quality on the Catawba Indian Nation tribal lands. This document will be printed and kept in the Natural Resources Department reference files for use in future planning and development of tribal land environmental and natural resources.

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### *REGION V*

#### *Alta Sita Neighbors*

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ985533-01	Dr. Helen Hudlin 3136 Virginia Place East St. Louis, IL 62207	\$20,000 FY 1997	Vacant Land Reuse

#### **Target Audience:**

The low-income, African-American community known as Alta Sita in East St. Louis, Illinois.

#### **Purpose:**

To facilitate the direct involvement of neighborhood residents to participate in the planning and implementation process of cleaning and maintaining vacant lots.

#### **Goals:**

- To provide workshops to residents on the health risks associated with illegal dumping and instruction on actions that can be taken to remediate these conditions.
- To work with residents to identify the worst vacant lots in the neighborhood.
- To work with property owners to facilitate cleanup and maintenance of the vacant lots.
- To work with the City to ensure action is taken against property owners who are recalcitrant in cleaning up vacant lots.
- To develop a preventive strategy designed to address illegal dumping in Alta Sita.

#### **Methods:**

- Formulated a list of lots where illegal dumping had occurred and where cleanup was needed, determined who owned these lots, prioritized the list of lots based on four factors, and obtained consent from the St.

Clair County Board of Trustees to clear the privately owned lots.

- Conducted two environmental awareness workshops for neighborhood residents.
- Trained block captains to serve as the collection point for suggestions, comments, and concerns about code enforcement, and to think of ways to manage and resolve these problems.
- Initiated a strategy to increase awareness of solid waste disposal and other code enforcement issues by the East St. Louis Code Enforcement Office. A "Code Awareness Week" was organized in July 1998 and kicked off at a televised session at which the City Manager, Code Enforcement Officials, the Public Works Department and other government officials made public statements against illegal dumping in the City. Residents were called to action against illegal dumping and encouraged to turn in sanitation violators to the Police Department. Residents were also organized to come out to clean up the garbage along the streets.

#### **Products/Results:**

Eight vacant lots were cleared of garbage and debris in the Alta Sita neighborhood. Alta Sita Neighbors got the City of East St. Louis to expend their tax dollars to cleanup an entire block and to permanently close the uninhabited street. The result of this action was that an additional thirty loads of garbage and

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debris were collected and disposed of properly.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The community was empowered to prioritize, plan and implement the cleanup of vacant lots. This project facilitated the direct involvement of community residents in remediating the high-priority

environmental problem of illegal dumping.

Partnerships were formed between residents and the local government to facilitate the additional cleanup and disposal of an entire contaminated block and to increase awareness of solid waste disposal code enforcement.

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#### ***Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Program (MMLAP)***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinators:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ985083-01	Mr. Gary Gershon and Ms. Martha Cortes 49 Monroe Center, NW, Suite 3-A Grand Rapids, MI 49503	\$20,000 FY 1995	Environmental Stewardship

#### **Target Audience:**

Migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families located in 30 counties in Western Michigan.

#### **Purpose:**

To educate migrant and seasonal farm workers on environmental and public health issues with the focus being on increasing the overall safety of farm workers and their families.

#### **Goals:**

- To contribute to farm worker community empowerment through education, outreach, and training.
- To assist the farm workers in understanding environmental laws, labeling on pesticides, groundwater contamination, safety conditions, and their rights under these environmental laws and regulations.
- To increase the safety of farm workers and their families.

#### **Methods:**

- Introduced the project to the targeted community through the dissemination of a special environmental issue of MMLAP's bilingual newsletter.
- Compiled and distributed an educational packet to farm workers which included a copies of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's pesticide reporting flyer, EPA's "Protect Yourself from Pesticides" booklet, MIOSHA booklets, original flyers on field sanitation and worker's compensation, copies of Poison Control Center's emergency information numbers, Michigan State University's "Pesticides Fact

Sheets," and an informational calendar of migrant health services published by the Midwest Migrant Health Information Office.

- Conducted Camp Meetings and Farm worker Information Meetings which reached 1,500 adult farm workers.
- Conducted training on the Worker Protection Standards and pesticide safety.

#### **Products/Results:**

MMLAP provided a bilingual education forum directly related to their health and safety to approximately 1,500 adult farm workers. An additional 300 people attended a Farm worker Environmental Justice Concert, featuring singer/songwriter Trish Hinojosa, and participated in the educational forum. A mailing list was compiled of all concert participants by the concert ticket outlet which increased the original target audience previously reached by MMLAP.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

A significant number of Michigan's migrant and seasonal farm workers were educated on environmental and health issues. One important outcome of the project was less reluctance on the part of farm workers to report pesticide poisoning. Four pesticide investigation requests were made on behalf of farm workers to the enforcement branch of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). The existing network of farm worker advocates was strengthened and enhanced. Strong communication was established between the MMLAP, the MDA and the EPA. The Farm worker Environmental Justice concert increased the target audience by reaching an additional 300 people and expanded the mailing list for future education and outreach.

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#### ***Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE)***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ985298-01

**Project Coordinator:**  
Mr. Doug Nethercut  
3255 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

**EPA Funding:**  
\$7,500  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Water Quality

**Target Audience:**

Low-income and minority neighborhoods in North Minneapolis.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project was to work with the stakeholders, neighborhood residents, local businesses, and public officials, to develop a high quality action plan for restoring the Bassett Creek watershed in Minneapolis.

**Goals:**

- To facilitate stakeholder meetings.
- To increase the capacity of neighborhood residents to obtain and analyze environmental data.
- To work with stakeholders to develop an action plan that uses the priorities identified by the communities.

**Methods:**

- Worked with neighborhood groups in Bassett Creek watershed to build a multi-stakeholder and multi-neighborhood initiative. Coordinated activities with neighborhood, city, county and state levels to ensure multi-stakeholder participation.
- Lead research that was critical to the creation of a successful watershed action plan. Increased the capacity of neighborhood residents to obtain and analyze relevant environmental data, including: contaminated

site locations and clean up status, Superfund site tracking, health impacts of contaminated sites, maps of drainage areas and stormwater pipes, land ownership data, hydrogeological data, soil types, history of railroad land, existing creek structures and streambank conditions.

- Designed an action plan using the priorities identified by the communities, "*Restoring Bassett Creek: A Strategy for Revitalizing an Urban Watershed.*"

**Products/Results:**

Developed an assessment of the North Minneapolis section of Bassett Creek and its watershed entitled "*Urban Watershed Profile: A Look at Bassett Creek.*"

Developed an action plan for restoring Bassett Creek utilizing multi-stakeholder input and community-based priorities.

**Successes/Strengths:**

CBE was able to involve a diverse group of stakeholders in the development of an action plan for restoring Bassett Creek. CBE did an excellent job of integrating environmental issues into crime and housing issues as a means to interest residents in high-crime neighborhoods in environmental restoration. The action plan has been widely distributed throughout the Twin Cities and the nation.

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#### ***WSOS Community Action Commission***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ985294-01	Ms. Julie Ward 219 South Front Street P.O. Box 590 Fremont, OH 43420	\$20,000 FY 1996	Environmental Stewardship

#### **Target Audience:**

A low-income, rural community located in Northwest Ohio.

#### **Purpose:**

To facilitate involvement of the environmental justice community in the process of community-based environmental protection. The project focused on demonstrating how to involve residents in a community decision making process that prioritized multiple environmental issues into an action plan.

#### **Goals:**

- To convene a stakeholder committee.
- To assess current and future environmental compliance needs.
- To conduct a community forum.
- To complete a compliance action plan.
- To begin an implementation schedule.

#### **Methods:**

- A four-page survey instrument was developed and distributed to households in the village by members of the local high school freshman class.
- A student survey instrument was developed and distributed to high school juniors and seniors.
- A business survey was developed and distributed to businesses and industries located in the village. Thirteen business and industry officials were interviewed as a follow-up to the survey.

- A town meeting was held during which the stakeholder committee presented the survey results to members of the village and surrounding local governments and offered them the opportunity to participate in four key issue groups identified by the stakeholder committee.
- A report presenting all data and information gathered, along with the recommendations of an outside facilitator, was compiled and provided to the stakeholder committee, the Seneca Regional Planning Commission, and the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program.

#### **Products/Results:**

Developed a "Community-based Environmental Planning: Report to the Community" which was distributed to the stakeholder committee and all involved parties locally, and to the Seven State Community Action Associations. The report was also distributed to the five regions of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) and the national RCAP office. Multiple copies were placed in the local community library and availability of the report was published in a newsletter with 1,000 person circulation.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

Achieved participation by low-income residents in completing an action plan to address multiple environmental compliance issues. Implementation of the action plan is underway with ongoing technical assistance. A model of communication and coordination was developed that involves broad-based community input and provides tools for decision making and follow-up action plan implementation that can be replicated for other issues in the community as well as for other service providers.

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asbestos identification project done in conjunction with this initiative helped 16 families repair and remove asbestos hazards from their homes.

An education outreach strategy was developed and tailored to the needs of the residents. Information materials were provided in an easily understood format in three different languages: Hmong, Spanish and English. The information materials addressed the health risks from specific environmental problems, such as exposures to poor air and water quality, contaminated fish and lead in the home.

Sponsored a Pollution Free Schools Initiative with Milwaukee Public Schools, Citizens for a Better Environment and the University of Wisconsin. Through this initiative students received hands on training in addressing real world problems in their schools, homes and neighborhoods including a project which involved high school and elementary school students learning about health hazards from lead poisoning in conjunction with science and chemistry projects. Samples of paint and dust from homes within the neighborhood were analyzed with simple chemistry experiments to determine if lead was present. The Center provided follow-up

information where lead was detected.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The focus on multiple environmental influences along with a collaborative project structure with the professional and community representatives lead to additional projects spearheaded by the Professional Advisory Group member organizations working in the target area as well as two new projects coordinated through the Center. These additional projects are a Solid and Hazardous Waste Great Lakes Initiative, a Pollution Prevention Autobody Metal Fabrication Project, and a Brownfield Community Oversight Project. Also, the Center developed fish consumption advisories in the Hmong language and targeted distribution of information on fish contamination through cultural associations which serve new immigrants and the resident Southeast Asian population. The Center developed an air quality profile and put together information to inform residents and health care practitioners on the risks from specific air quality problems and what steps residents can take to reduce their risks from exposures.

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# Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

## *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

### REGION VI

#### *Upper Pecos Environmental Justice*

**Grant Number:**  
EQ-996797-01-0

**Project Coordinator:**  
Wendy B. Easton  
1926 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Las Vegas, NM 87701

**EPA Funding:**  
\$17,103  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Water Quality

**Target Audience:**

Predominantly Hispanic community in the Village of Pecos, San Miguel County, New Mexico.

**Purpose:**

To help watershed stakeholders address environmental problems and understand what actions can be taken to prevent and reduce water and solid waste pollution in the Upper Pecos Watershed..

**Goals:**

- Help watershed stakeholders identify environmental justice problems and involve them in addressing concerns.
- Provide the residents and land owners with factual information on the extent and causes of pollution within the project area and to suggest solutions to some of these problems.
- Help the stakeholders to build an awareness of pollution problems; to understand the importance of the watershed's health; to develop a sense of ownership towards the watershed and a stewardship attitude for all natural resources.

**Methods:**

- Held two workshops on water quality problems and solid waste disposal.
- Conducted field trips for elementary students in the watershed.
- Produced an information dissemination brochure on pollution problems and

solutions for the problems within the Upper Pecos Watershed.

- Provided a curriculum to fourth and fifth grade elementary school students on clean water.

**Products/Results:**

Held training workshops and public meetings on pollution-related water quality problems in the watershed due to poor resource management and environmental law. These workshops provided information on pollution impairments in the watershed, as well as solutions to the pollution.

- Three workshops were held on solid waste.
- An environmental law workshop was held by Mr. Lindsay Lovejoy of the State of New Mexico Attorney General's Office, who is also the Chairman of the Pecos Watershed Association.
- Four field trips were made by fourth and fifth grade classes. The fourth graders visited a ranch on the Pecos National Historical Park and studied the riparian areas at the confluence of the Pecos River and the Glorieta Creek. They compared the water bodies; vegetation, bank stabilization, macroinvertebrate species and algae blooms. They conducted some water monitoring with assistance from the Chief Ranger at the Park. The fifth graders saw a few sites and talked about the ground and surface water with a

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geologist from the New Mexico Environmental Department who also answered the students many questions.

- A brochure was produced to enhance the community's understanding of environmental health information.
- The students' understanding of surface and ground water quality issues were enhanced through the use in the classroom of EPA's Drinking Water Activities for Teachers and Students Curriculum along with the activities from Project WET.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The project raised community awareness of how detrimental improper waste handling is for the environment. Solutions to Upper Pecos Watershed pollution problems were also identified. A consensus was reached to promote ground and surface water protection and the residents are now aware that their precious water supply is limited.

###

### *American Institute for Learning*

**Grant Number:**  
EQ-996611

**Project Coordinator:**  
Penny Weibly  
204 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

**EPA Funding:**  
\$20,000  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Water Quality

#### **Target Audience:**

Residents of the Civitan neighborhood in the Montopolis area of Austin, Texas. The community is primarily Hispanic with 36% below poverty level. Facilitate eight to ten at-risk youths to develop work skills and experience.

interactive tool for watershed education/awareness.

- Provide ten training sessions in the targeted community on watershed non-point source pollution.

#### **Purpose:**

To address environmental justice as it pertains to water quality via watersheds.

#### **Goals:**

- To increase public awareness.
- Improve linkages with community stakeholders.
- Train eight to ten youths on interactive training techniques.

#### **Methods:**

- Collect data on the watershed.
- Train eight to ten at-risk youths on an

#### **Products/Results:**

This project impacted the quality of the watershed by improving the knowledge and resources of the community residents. Three teams of AIL participants were formed: 1) **Construction team:** learned to read topographic maps. After a visual survey of the watershed, began building a three-dimensional model of the Country Club Creek Watershed; 2) **Education team** which conducted an environmental fair at Allison Elementary School. After the watershed model was completed, the education team gave several demonstrations of the non-point source model; and 3) the **Monitoring team** tested the water each week on Country Club Creek for dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH level, and conductivity. They also monitored the water color, odor, clarity and algae cover.

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#### **Successes/Strengths:**

Raised awareness and brought needed resources to the area. Eighteen dropout youths were taught how to read topographic maps; how to monitor the water quality; how to make oral and visual presentations; how to interpret natural resource indicators; and

some elemental problem solving techniques. Watershed surveys reflected that participants, adults and children were unaware of how easy it is to contribute to polluting the water supply.

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### ***Woodland Acres Cleaner Communities for Better Health Campaign***

#### **Grant Number:**

EQ-996891

#### **Project Coordinator:**

Jane Elioseff  
GHASP  
2476 Bolsover #126  
Houston, TX 77005

#### **EPA Funding:**

\$19,898  
FY 1997

#### **Focus:**

Air Quality

#### **Target Audience:**

Residential population of Woodland Acres is comprised of 53% Latino, 43% Caucasian, and 24% each African-American, Native American, and Asian. The median income is \$22,551, 30% make less than \$12,500, while 25% of the families live below the poverty line.

#### **Purpose:**

To develop an active Woodland Acres Chapter of Mothers for Clean Air That would increase community awareness of air and solid waste hazards, identify environmental justice issues, and gather additional information on pollution sources in or near the community.

#### **Goals:**

- Improve communication and education regarding environmental justice issues through computer literacy activities.
- Enhance the community's understanding of air toxic issues.
- Discuss risk reduction and pollution prevention.
- Produce a calendar that will mark dates important to the community, feature photographs from walking tours.

#### **Methods:**

- Train five residents to use the computer for intergroup communications and access to environmental databases.
- Organize a chapter of Mothers for Clean Air.
- Provide onsite training to children and adults on how to recognize toxic hazards.
- Wide distribution of calendars featuring photos of local pollution problems.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

In May 1998, the new Woodland Acres/GPISD Chapter of Mothers for Clean Air held its first general meeting and the computer, fax, and printer were unveiled. Over the summer of 1998, five people were trained to use the Internet to research information on toxins. Two toxic tours were planned; one for adults and one for local fifth-graders. "Clearing the Air" was the first environmental justice article written for the newsletter. Community schools participated in a city-wide Clean Air Coalition and the 1998-99 planned activities include continuing to offer toxic tours and sponsoring a second children's photography project. More people will be trained to use the Internet for acquiring information about pollution sources.

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#### ***Community Health/Environmental Justice Project***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ-996912	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> Yana Bland Community Health Team 111 Wildcat Hollow Kyle, TX 78640	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$19,914 1996	<b>Focus:</b> Pollution Prevention
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**Sponsor:**  
Foundation for a Compassionate Society

**Target Audience:**

North Kelly Gardens community, 91% Mexican-American.

**Purpose:**

To address water, soil, and air pollution around Kelly Air Force Base. The Community Health Team believes this work will provide a model for similarly impacted communities near U.S. military bases in addressing high-priority environmental justice issues.

**Goals:**

- Supplement the North Kelly Gardens Health Study with medical profiles, toxic inventories, and risk maps.
- Improve communication and coordination among all interested citizens primarily by making presentations to target audiences, including Department of Defense, the Greater Kelly Development Corporation, Kelly AFB, local school boards, etc.
- Train locals (train-the-trainer) to identify environmental contamination and causes; and methods for working toward the prevention of pollution and health hazards.

**Methods:**

- Communicate the findings of the health study and supplemental findings to all stakeholders.
- Improve the community's capacity to design and implement activities that address its public health concerns.
- Enhance the understanding of environmental and public health systems among communities adjacent to Kelly AFB.
- Become a model for other communities affected by military-industrial contaminants. Gain recognition for the issue of prevention and elimination of environmental contamination on and near military bases and that it will be given higher priority at a national and international level.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Community outreach workers met with residents of a toxic triangle on the east side of Kelly AFB and collected health profiles and distributed educational flyers. Residents participated in regularly scheduled meetings sponsored by the Committee for Environmental Justice Action. Produced a booklet entitled, "Contamination of Neighborhoods Near Kelly AFB."

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### ***Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ-996814-01-0	Phyllis Soxie P.O. Box 470 Pawnee, OK 74058	\$20,000 FY 1997	Water Quality Solid Waste Disposal
<b>Sponsor:</b> Pawnee Nation Business Council			

**Target Audience:**  
Pawnee Nation

**Purpose:**  
To address water and solid waste issues within the Pawnee Indian Country.

**Goal:**

- Establish an education and enforcement process within the Tribe to protect its water resources from effects of non-point source pollution within Pawnee Indian Country.

**Methods:**

- Develop a Tribal Solid Waste Management Plan and Tribal Water Quality Standards.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Achieved an increase in the level of awareness throughout both the Tribal and non tribal community concerning non-point source (NPS) pollution. An effective Tribal process is in place for educating, reporting and enforcing all solid waste and water quality issues. The Pawnee Tribe is now an active participant in both the Payne County and Pawnee County Solid Waste Management Program. There is an environmental education process via Pawnee Blue Thumb to provide hands-on educational activities and environmental tips for the community.

The Tribal and non tribal people now have a localized and tangible solid waste management program providing for reporting, enforcing and education. The Solid Waste Management Plan goals are to: 1) stop illegal dumping on Pawnee Indian Country; 2) provide Tribal rural areas access to an economical means of disposal; 3) develop

enforcement codes for lands within Pawnee Tribal jurisdiction; 4) develop cooperative agreements with local, State and Federal agencies to develop provisions for solid waste management; and 5) research and develop waste minimization program.

The Tribe applied for certification to establish the Tribal Water Quality Program and Tribal Water Quality Standards, CWA Sections 106 and 303, respectively. The 106 certification was issued in June 1998 and the Tribe is waiting for approval of its 303 certification. Tribal Water Quality Standards were developed and will be consistent with that of the State of Oklahoma.

Staff purchased an "Enviroscape Watershed" model for hands-on NPS activities for the youth in the community. Educational activities include:

- Tribal Health Fair
- Pawnee Outdoor Classroom Day
- Youth Conservation Fair
- Tribal Meetings to present NPS issues within the Pawnee Indian Country
- Provide curricular support via "Enviroscape" to local school teachers for educating the youth on NPSs and effects.
- Several brochures (addressing proper application of land applied chemicals, proper septic tank maintenance, and general water quality issues) were printed for distribution in the Tribal Reserve area, county courthouse, and other areas.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### ***Kaw Nation of Oklahoma--Washunga Bay Cleanup Initiative***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ-996616-01-0

**Project Coordinator:**  
Wanda Stone  
Drawer 50  
Kaw City, OK 74641

**EPA Funding:**  
\$20,000  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Vacant Land Reuse

**Target Audience:**  
Kaw Nation

**Purpose:**

To clean up and restore to original condition, an existing "dump site" located west of the Chilocco Indian School campus. This was an extension to the Washunga Bay Clean up Initiative Project.

**Goals:**

- Appoint a clean-up coordinator
- Initiate bid process and select subcontractor for manpower and equipment for cleanup activities.
- Clean up and remove household trash, metal cabinets, desks, beds, springs, debris, cement chunks from Kanza Reservation northeastern boundary area adjacent to Chilocco Campus.

- Restore "dump" to pristine condition.

**Methods:**

- A coordinator was appointed.
- Bids were solicited and approved in April 1998.
- Ponca City Solid Waste Department coordinated transport of waste to Ponca City landfill.
- Approximately 15 loads of scrap were removed from the site and transported to Ponca Iron.

**Successes/Strengths:**

- Accomplished cleanup of four illegal dumpsites.

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**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**  
*Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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**REGION VII**

***Groundwater Protection for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ997176	Mark Versch P. O. Box 368 Macey, NB 68039	\$20,000 FY 1997	Water Quality

**Target Audience:**

Residents of the reservation of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

**Purpose:**

To protect the surface and groundwater on the reservation or areas of surrounding water which Tribal Members use. There were many groundwater wells which were abandoned improperly which could contaminate the groundwater itself, the soil around it, and other groundwater. This also meant that the wells could not be used in later years if needed.

**Goals:**

- Establish an Environmental Justice program focus within the Omaha Tribe's Environmental Protection Department by employing an Environmental Technician to initiate the work activities.
- Initiate a systematic inventory of abandoned wells located within the external boundaries of the reservation and generate a computerized database of the information obtained.
- Develop rational criteria for evaluating abandoned well sites and produce a list of priority well closures of those abandoned wells that have been located.
- Strengthen the cooperative working relationship with the Papio-Missouri River Tributaries Natural Resources District, as well as other non-tribal units of government on the Reservation.
- Demonstrate the proper sealing of abandoned

wells (both drilled and hand dug).

- Develop appropriate data storage and management systems to permit information analysis and reporting.
- Develop the technical capability of the Environmental Department staff of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska to properly fill wells to prevent environmental contamination and protect the safety and health of the residents on the Reservation.
- Inform and educate the members of the Omaha Tribe, and other residents of the Reservation, regarding the significance of properly closing wells.

**Methods:**

- Inventory of abandoned wells
- Training of Tribal staff to close wells
- Coordination with property owners to inform them of the process and gain permission for closure
- Communication with the Tribe at-large regarding project
- Perform closings of wells

**Products/Results:**

A database was established which identified all abandoned well-sites on the Omaha Reservation.

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

Approximately 44 large diameter, hand-dug wells were filled and another 65 were stabilized by removing the pump mechanisms and associated pipes and capping them with a locking lid. Filling the well consisted of putting sand and chlorine inside the well to protect groundwater, which also prevents reuse of the well. The method of removing the pump mechanisms and associated pipes and capping them with a locking lid not only protects the ground water, but it allows for the reuse of the well.

Environmental Protection Department of Nebraska took part in fulfilling the goal of protecting the surface water and groundwater which Tribal members use and they also educated the community about the importance of keeping their wells in good condition so that later generations would be able to use the same natural resources that the generations and forefathers before them were able to use.

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### *Open Airways for Schools*

**Grant Number:**  
EQ 997056

**Project Coordinator:**  
Terrie Magruder  
1118 Hampton Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63139

**EPA Funding:**  
\$5,000  
FY 1994

**Focus:**  
Indoor/Outdoor Air  
Quality

**Target Audience:**

Children with asthma and their families and school nurses

**Partners:**

Public School Administrators, Public School Health Service Workers and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in East St. Louis, Missouri.

**Purpose:**

To provide an interactive approach to teach children to recognize and manage their asthma symptoms, solve problems with medications, plan for safe participation in physical activity and improve their academic performances. Also, introduce Open Airways for Schools (OAS) as a pilot program in St. Louis to determine if it could be successful in helping children, with assistance from their parents and school nurses, manage their asthma.

**Methods:**

- Enlighten parents, teachers, school nurses and physicians about Open Airways for Schools, an innovative, elementary school-based, asthma education program for children ages eight to eleven, developed by Columbia University.

- Covered six lessons related to asthma which included: (1) Basic Information/Feelings About Asthma; (2) Recognizing and Managing Asthma Symptoms; (3) Solving Problems with Medicines/Deciding How Bad Symptoms Are; (4) Finding Triggers and Controlling Asthma; (5) Keeping your Battery Charged--How to get Enough Exercise; and (6) Doing Well at School

- Coordinated with the St. Louis City Public School Administration, St. Louis City Public School Health Services, and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (a national African-American professional women's sorority which has adopted OAS on a national level as a service project). The five inner-city public schools that participated in this pilot program were Roe, Hodgen, Mullanphy, Webster, and Kennard.

- Trained five school nurses on asthma, second hand smoke, and indoor/outdoor air quality (March 1994 and October 18, 1994). Implementation of OAS began October 24, 1994 and continued through graduation on December 3, 1994.



## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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- Zeta Phi Beta met with parents of the children in OAS to collect data and qualify emergency room visits and missed school days which would be included in the study. This meeting was to engage the parents and educate them on environmental controls and the importance of good asthma management.

#### **Products/Results**

Educated parents/teachers on environmental controls and how they tie into good asthma management. Specifically, the use of mattress covers and removal of carpet to control dust mites and avoidance of smoke, dust, pesticides, strong odors, and pet dander are considered good asthma management. On January 24, 1995, had a follow-up meeting with nurses to collect feedback on their experiences and perceived effectiveness of the program. Unanimously, the nurses agreed OAS was an important tool in teaching asthma management.

The program was evaluated using numeric data and professional opinions. Amongst the results were:

- The median number of Emergency Room visits for the children who participated in the

project was 1.4 visits per child per year, and in the year after OAS it was .4 visits per child per year.

- Children reported a significant increase in their likelihood of taking a break from play to prevent wheezing following completion of OAS program intervention.
- There was a significant reduction in the number of reported missed school days following completion of OAS program intervention.
- Children reported a significant increase in their likelihood to take asthma medication during wheezing and coughing episodes following completion of OAS intervention.

All participating partners recognized the program as beneficial. To substantiate this endorsement, in February 1995, ALAE, in conjunction with Washington University and St. Louis University, applied for and was awarded a contract with the National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute to conduct a five-year research program in the St. Louis City Public elementary schools.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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### *REGION VIII*

#### *Clean Water Fund*

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ998496-01	Sherry Shadley 118 N. Broadway Fargo, ND 58102	\$10,000 FY 1996	Environmental Stewardship

**Target Audience:**

Hispanic migrant farm laborers in North Dakota

**Purpose:**

To bridge the existing language barriers between Hispanic farmworkers and their employers (primarily sugar beet growers in the Red River Valley) that had previously prevented farmworkers from gaining access to workplace safety information and training.

**Goals:**

- Identify the necessary improvements in communication and coordination among all responsible parties, and then work to address disproportionately high rates of pesticide exposure within the migrant farmworker community.
- Motivate the general public to be more conscious of their local environmental justice issues and involve the community in efforts to address these concerns to improve living and working conditions for Hispanic migrant farmworkers.

**Methods:**

- Evaluate FY 1995 grant project activities and follow up on those activities.
- Provide "Train the Trainer" workshops to reach 100 Hispanic community leaders with pesticide and workplace safety training.
- Provide more intensive, one-on-one training to Hispanic leaders to ultimately reach an additional 500 migrant workers.

- Add a community forum component to bring together responsible parties for a day-long discussion to improve living and working conditions.

**Products/Results:**

- Conducted a three day "Train the Trainer" workshop in June for ten Hispanic community leaders.
- Held a day long community forum in June with more than 80 farmworkers and other stakeholders participated.
- Cosponsored Hispanic Food Festival with more than 400 Hispanic residents attending and learning about pesticide safety and household hazards.
- Hired a former migrant farmworker as a summer intern and spoke with nearly 1,500 farmworkers about their issues.
- Added 150 names to mailing list for future dissemination of materials. Also used a bilingual sign-up sheet to get feedback on unsafe working conditions in the fields.
- Conducted educational outreach in eight communities in North Dakota.

**Successes/Strengths:**

By hiring a bilingual intern, three times as many farmworkers were reached as originally expected. Many of the farmworkers who participated in the "train-the-trainer" program brought their children to the workshops and involved them in the learning which was beneficial since often the children work in the fields right next to their parents.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

#### ***Native Ecology Initiative***

***(A Project of the Jobs & Environment Campaign in South Dakota)***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ998493-01

**Project Coordinator:**  
Lillian Wilmore  
P.O. Box 470829  
Brookline Village, MA 02147

**EPA Funding:** \$10,109  
FY 1996  
**Focus:** Environmental Stewardship

#### **Target Audience:**

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation residents (low-income communities)

#### **Purpose:**

To create a partnership between the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Native Ecology Initiative, and Lakota community institutions, grassroots groups and individuals.

#### **Goals:**

- To educate targeted community about environmental regulations and their impact.
- Continue to develop environmental regulatory codes.
- Establish a baseline environmental study.
- Provide technical assistance to write a Generic Tribal Pesticides in Groundwater Protection Plan.

#### **Methods:**

- Set up community meetings to do outreach and educate people about environmental issues.
- Complete drafting of regulatory codes.
- Conduct soil surveys and assess vulnerabilities from these surveys.
- Continue to develop and write the Generic Tribal Pesticides in Groundwater Protection Plan

#### **Products/Results:**

Grassroots contacts raised a number of issues about environmental concerns which include:

1. They asked about the quality of the drinking water regarding radioactivity/radon issues. They were given educational materials produced by EPA and they were also referred to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Radioactivity can be tested and people were offered test kits, but no one wanted a kit. Research on this issue indicates the fears about contamination from uranium mining.
2. General questions about pesticides and native plant gatherers' health and safety were raised. This was addressed with materials from EPA and a toll-free number was given to contact USGS concerning malformed amphibians (such as frogs) and the possible causes. As required under the EPA Draft Proposed Rule for Tribal Management Plans, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was developed for the FIFRA - Groundwater Protection Plan. This activity was not one of the goals of the project, but was completed as a sub-task under the generic plan.
3. The group also did soil surveys and used assessment to help write Generic Tribal Pesticides in Groundwater Protection Plan. EPA has done the formal review of the generic plan and changes were made as recommended. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has also asked for changes which were incorporated. Still awaiting courtesy concurrence from the State of South Dakota on the plan.

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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4. Updated the bibliography, "Environmental Justice: An Indian Country Guide," which had been prepared from a FY 1995 EJ Small Grant.

the completion of the Generic Tribal Pesticides in Groundwater Protection Plan indicates we can move forward to work on the Pesticide Specific Plans for the reservation. Established a Quality Assurance Project Plan for FIFRA for the Tribe.

#### Successes/Strengths:

The formation of a partnership among the three groups to work on issues affecting their communities. Also,

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### *National Safety Council for Wyoming and Montana*

**Grant Number:**  
EQ998490-01

**Project Coordinator:**  
Nyki Brandon-Palermo  
1019 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW #401  
Washington, DC 20036

**EPA Funding:**  
\$19,907  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Indoor Air Quality

#### Target Audience:

Mothers and children in low-income communities, low-income minority communities, and tribal reservations in Wyoming and Montana

#### Purpose:

To develop an indoor environmental community education kit for targeted audience to empower these communities to take additional responsibility for improving the quality of their lives.

#### Goals:

- Established a local advisory committee to decide what issues need to be covered in kit.
- Created and developed an Indoor Air Community Leader Kit.
- Provided a one-day intensive training workshop.
- Local groups committed to do outreach workshops to target audience after attending the one-day training.

#### Methods:

- Send out letters and make calls to recruit members to sit on local advisory committee.
- Develop first draft of the guide and continue working with committee on changes.
- Start developing a support group to participate in one-day training.

- Provide one-day training and work with leaders to provide outreach workshops.
- Community leaders provide evaluations and feedback to National Safety Council on how information is received in outreach workshops.

#### Products/Results:

The advisory committee consisted of professionals from existing community groups in Montana and Wyoming, grass-roots organizations, and others. Revisions were made to the existing Indoor Air Community Leader Kit to target low-income, minority, and tribal mothers and children using the guidance, suggestions and materials from the advisory committee. The new kits were completed and contain a video (English and Spanish), a slide and overhead presentation and script, fact sheets on indoor pollutants and other materials to support outreach programs. Eleven of the fourteen members of the advisory committee pilot tested the kit. Each community leader presented the kit materials three different times to target audiences.

#### Successes/Strengths:

Lots of positive feedback was received from trainers on the colorful tools used to help educate the public. Approximately 164 people were trained during the outreach workshops, and a commitment was made to do a six-month and one year follow-up with the community leaders. Community leaders received free radon test kits and lead wipe test kits to give to their community members. ###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

#### *Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Colorado*

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ998672-01	Cindy Crist P.O. Box 448 Towaoc, CO 81334	\$20,000 FY 1997	Environmental Stewardship

#### **Target Audience:**

Low-income Ute Mountain Ute Tribal members (241), Navajo Nation members (60), and non-Native Americans (4).

#### **Purpose:**

To identify, assess and address inequitable environmental impacts to the White Mesa Community from the uranium mill

#### **Goals:**

- Hire an environmental consultant with technical expertise to analyze and interpret existing data from the mill.
- Assess data results and make recommendations to the White Mesa Council.
- Develop a report that can be easily interpreted by the community members.
- Facilitate communication with community members about the opportunities to get involved in environmental decision making.
- Promote information exchange between the Tribe, State of Utah, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, White Mesa Uranium Mill and local stakeholders.

#### **Methods:**

- Hire a consultant who will have approximately six months to complete the project.
- Obtain data from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and assess data and make recommendations.
- Information exchange will be in the form of newsletters and public meetings.
- Consultant will give oral presentation to White Mesa Ute Council at monthly board meetings so that the public can give their feedback on the project.

#### **Products/Results:**

Twenty-four organizations were involved in the partnership on this grant to provide input on the uranium mill contamination. As a result of the assessment, the White Mesa Ute Council wrote a formal letter to the International Uranium Corporation (IUC) requesting: (1) a monitor for airborne radiation near the White Mesa Community; (2) that copies of the semiannual monitoring reports from the NRC be sent to the Tribe; and (3) that IUC incorporate notification and evacuation procedures for White Mesa residents into the White Mesa Uranium Mill's emergency response plan.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The residents of White Mesa have become more aware of the environmental issues associated with the White Mesa Uranium Mill. If the IUC complies with the requests, adequate protection to the White Mesa Community from exposure to radiation will be addressed.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Fort Belknap Indian Community Council in Montana***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ998497-01	Ina Nez Perce R.R. 1, Box 66 Harlem, MT 59526	\$19,787 FY 1996	Environmental Stewardship

**Target Audience:**

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation with resident population of 3,600 and unemployment rate of 70%.

**Purpose:**

To raise environmental awareness through information/education activities and facilitate community partnerships which will result in action to address local environmental concerns.

**Goals:**

- Increase environmental consciousness on the reservation.
- Create a public forum to address environmental justice issues on Indian lands in Montana from a tribal perspective.
- Invite tribal members, as well as other tribes, to participate in the public forum to help form new partnerships.

**Methods:**

- Produce and distribute a quarterly environmental newsletter.

- Sponsor a public forum titled, "Environmental Justice on Indian Lands in Montana."
- Facilitate community partnerships and form new ones with other tribal communities.

**Products/Results:**

Four newsletters were produced and distributed to 2,100 residents; two workshops were held to reinforce information in newsletters. A one-day public forum was sponsored and a video was produced from the forum for further outreach. More than 20 new partnerships were formed from the public forum and other activities.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Expanded existing and created new partnerships as a result of the project. Partnerships allow the community to form a trusting relationship with the program staff and build an environmental support network to further common environmental causes. This also offers credibility to the Tribal Environmental Protection Program staff's efforts.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE)***

<b>Grant Number:</b>	<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>EPA Funding:</b>	<b>Focus:</b>
EQ998678-01	Tim Brown 350 South 400 East, Suite G4 Salt Lake City, UT 84111	\$20,000 FY 1997	Environmental Stewardship

**Target Audience:**

Low-income and minority schools and community-at-large located along the Jordan River Corridor.

**Purpose:**

To facilitate education, stewardship and use of the Jordan River by students, teachers and the community

**Goals:**

- Provide understanding to students of relationship between safety of an area and the attitude toward and use of that area.
- Provide stewardship of river area -- including control of litter and vandalism.
- Prevent illegal dumping and address problems with water runoff.
- Address problems related to solid waste and water quality.
- Improve communication and coordination and enhance community understanding of environmental justice..
- Establish environmental and public health information systems for local communities.

**Methods:**

- USEE will serve as liaison, facilitator for schools, community groups and agencies.
- Recruit additional stakeholders and increase partnerships.

- Publish a monthly newsletter on environmental issues along the river.
- Conduct Teacher workshops and projects to further education on environmental justice.
- Assist students in developing feasible solutions to river problems.

**Products/Results:**

Nine out of twelve schools initially identified participated in the project. Teachers from the schools along the Jordan River used the river to teach science, language arts and social studies. Forty teachers attended the USEE conference and participated in the eight "Community Night Out" events held along the river, and five major community projects. Project partners were increased by more than 50 and partners conducted outreach visits including 150 school visits and 15 community visits.

**Successes/Strengths:**

As a result of this project, community projects now have strong support and credibility. Students learned about the environment and how to improve the environmental quality in their communities. Students in elementary and high school had an opportunity to produce environmental school projects.

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## **Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

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### ***REGION IX***

#### ***Environmental Justice Youth Leadership Project***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ999495-01-2

**Project Coordinator:**  
Memo Tabuso  
2088 Oakdale Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94124

**EPA Funding:**  
\$20,000  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Environmental Stewardship

**Sponsor:**  
San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners

**Target Audience:**

The program targets three main audiences : (1) Approximately eight at-risk youths aged 14 - 17 from Bayview-Hunter's Point; (2) Each youth's friends, families and community members; and (3) Local environmental justice leaders and established community groups, city officials, public and environmental health officers.

**Purpose:**

To identify and train effective youth leaders and community leaders who will use their newly acquired skills and knowledge to help educate and organize the Bayview-Hunter's Point community around environmental justice issues.

**Methods:**

- Train the students in presentation techniques, public speaking, leadership and advocacy.
- Connect the environmental justice movement with a variety of issues including food security, siting of toxic facilities in communities, solid waste management, and the importance of public participation in the decision-making process.
- Provide youth with real-life opportunities to present their experiences and viewpoints on issues.

**Products/Results:**

After learning about presentation and leadership skills, and about environmental justice issues, the youth took charge and organized against targeted tobacco advertising in their community -- an environmental

justice issue throughout the country. Throughout the course, the youth presented more than 15 presentations to public agencies, political organizations, and to local elected officials. The students introduced a resolution to city supervisors limiting the power of tobacco companies on an international scale. After listening to the youth's presentation at a public hearing, San Francisco supervisors passed a version of the resolution on June 15, 1998. The resolution is a statement of the will of the people of San Francisco.

SLUG created curriculum for an alternative youth program focusing on environmental justice education, training and leadership opportunities for high school youth. Youth learned about environmental justice issues in their community and had the opportunity to design and implement solutions.

**Successes/Strengths:**

Students have completed one year of training in the Environmental Justice Youth Leadership Program. At the beginning of this project none of these students had heard of the environmental justice movement or had experience with the local decision-making process. This project demonstrated that high school students can become active members of their community and an important voice for the environmental justice movement. Many of the participants complained that many times the issues discussed in their regular classroom are not relevant to their lives. The environmental justice movement provides a vocabulary and familiarity that the students need to be able to voice their concerns about what is happening in their communities. This youth leadership project could serve as a model for youth participation in the grassroots movement.



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The teens will use their newly acquired skills and knowledge to help education and organize the Bayview-Hunter's Point community around environmental justice issues. The next round of student leaders have

begun training and will continue working on tobacco and other local environmental issues.

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### ***Radon and Indoor Air Pollution Project***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ999682-01-0

**Project Coordinator:**  
Barbara Perkins  
P.O. Box 921898  
Sylmar, CA 91392-1898

**EPA Funding:**  
\$16,500  
FY 1997

**Focus:**  
Indoor Air Quality

**Sponsor:**

National Council of Negro Women in the San Fernando Valley, California

**Target Audience:**

Low-income and minority residents of the San Fernando Valley.

**Purpose:**

To reduce the public health risks of radon and indoor air contamination by conducting radon tests and distributing home use radon tests in the San Fernando Valley.

**Goals:**

- To motivate the local community residents to test their homes and mitigate for radon especially in high risk areas
- To educate the community on how to take preventive action against other sources of indoor air pollution, including second hand smoke and carbon monoxide.

**Methods:**

- Partner with organizers of Black History Month activities to increase access to predominantly African-American residents at highest risk of asthma and exposure to indoor

air pollution.

- Set up Indoor Air Quality Information Centers at public events and schools.
- Distribute home use radon tests to residents at high risk of exposure to unhealthy indoor air.

**Successes/Strengths:**

In 1998 the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) sponsored the Black History Month Festival at Los Angeles Mission College in the city of Sylmar, California. During this festival the NCNW presented a workshop on Indoor Air Quality and distributed hundreds of radon test kits to low-income and minority residents of the San Fernando Valley. The festival was well attended reaching 300 community residents and organizational representatives. As a result of this project, NCNW set up similar Indoor Air Quality Information Centers and distributed educational information about reducing public health risks of radon and indoor air contamination at other events later in the year.

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## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Hualapai Used Oil Recycling Project***

**Grant Number:**  
EQ999693-01-3

**Project Coordinator:**  
Elena Navarro  
Senior Program Manager  
P.O. Box 179  
Peach Springs, AZ 86434

**EPA Funding:**  
\$20,000  
FY 1997

**Focus:**  
Pollution Prevention

**Sponsor:**  
Hualapai Tribe, Department of Public Services.

#### **Target Audience:**

Residents, administrative departments and businesses within the boundaries of the Hualapai Reservation that currently change their oil and dump the used oil in the landfill, soil or other inappropriate places.

#### **Purpose:**

To protect the environment and natural habitat of tribal lands by establishing and publicizing a used oil recycling center.

#### **Goals:**

- The tribe expects to reduce improper disposal and wildcat dumping of used oil and educate the community on the link between recycling and larger environmental issues, such as landfill capacity and water quality.

#### **Methods:**

- The Hualapai Department of Public Services surveyed tribal residents to assess their knowledge about recycling and willingness to recycle oil.
- The Tribe set up a service where used oil could be picked up and dropped off. They also built a "kwik" pit for customers to change and easily recycle their motor oil.
- Fifty-five gallon temporary oil storage drums were put at sites throughout the reservation.
- Information about recycling and disposing of used oil was disseminated in newsletters and published in the local newspaper. The Gamyu and community demonstrations are part of the ongoing community outreach efforts.

#### **Products/Results:**

Oil recycling is now possible and has begun on the reservation. The "kwik" pit opened in the Fall of 1998 and 55 gallon temporary oil storage drums were put at sites throughout the reservation. Used oil recycling was added to the tribe's integrated waste management plan. Maintenance of the facilities will continue as part of their ongoing efforts.

The primary challenge with recycling used oil is contamination from mixing materials such as antifreeze, water, brake fluid and other automotive fluids. To aid in prevention of this problem, the recycling center added other common fluids to its list of acceptable items.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

The Hualapai reservation is an isolated rural community located along the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona. The unemployment rate is close to 60% and a large percentage of people change their own oil. For years people on the reservation had to drive 55 miles away to Kingman, Arizona to dispose of their dirty used oil. Some people made this drive, but it was more likely that the dirty oil ended up in the local landfill, on the soil, or in other inappropriate places. Today, residents of the Hualapai Reservation have a cleaner and more convenient option.

This project was modelled after a similar project completed on the Hopi Reservation and funded through the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program the previous year. In addition to serving as the model for this project, the staff of the Hopi Department of Natural Resources provided critical technical advice to the Hualapai Tribe, resulting in a more efficient and effective project.

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### ***Brownfields Environmental Justice Working Group***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ-999495-01-2	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> Torrie Estrada P.O. Box 29908 Presidio Station San Francisco, CA 94102	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1997	<b>Focus:</b> Environmental Stewardship
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**Sponsor:**  
Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California.

#### **Target Audience:**

Residents, community groups and nonprofit organizations representing the Bay Area's urban centers.

#### **Purpose:**

To revitalize the economy and environment in urban communities of color throughout the Bay Area. Without the participation of neighborhood residents, who bring a strong awareness of the environmental justice issues to their advocacy, the full potential of economic and environmental revitalization may not be realized. Urban Habitat's Brownfields Environmental Justice Project is working to ensure that community activists in the Bay area are at the table to incorporate the principles of environmental justice and sustainability into the design and implementation of Brownfields policies and redevelopment policies.

#### **Goals:**

- To ensure that community activists in the Bay Area are at the table to incorporate the principles of environmental justice and sustainability into the design and implementation of Brownfields policies and redevelopment projects.
- To help communities gain the technical understanding to participate in a knowledgeable and effective manner.
- To develop regionally sustainable and environmentally just strategies for Brownfields redevelopment.
- To ensure that government officials and agency representatives involved in Brownfields redevelopment have an opportunity to understand and evaluate the

environmental justice issues that relate to Brownfields redevelopment.

#### **Methods:**

- Ensure multi-stakeholder participation in the Regional Bay Area Brownfields Working Group, including EPA and local agency representatives as well as community organizations and other Brownfields stakeholders.
- Convene and facilitate regular meetings of the Regional Bay Area Brownfields Working Group.

#### **Products:**

- Fact sheets on Regional Brownfields Pilot projects.
- The Community Guide to Brownfields; A regional Resource Guide on Brownfields Revitalization.

#### **Successes/Strengths:**

Today the Regional Brownfields Working Group is a collaboration of approximately 70 community groups nonprofit organizations, academia, and public and private sector representatives. The establishment of a formal multi-stakeholder working group and the community guidance document should serve as a model for integrating environmental justice considerations into Brownfields Pilot Projects nationwide. The Brownfields working group has been successful because it includes local government and regulatory agency staff, community residents, environmental justice leaders, community developers.

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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### **REGION X**

#### ***Summer on the Columbia Slough with the Portland Urban League***

**Grant Number:**

EQ990671-01

**Project Coordinator:**

Michael Pullen, Director of Marketing  
10 N. Russell Street  
Portland, OR 97227

**EPA Funding: Focus:**

\$20,000  
FY 1996

Water Quality

**Target Audience:**

Residents of North Portland and Northeast Portland and other users of the Columbia Slough.

problems in the Slough. Some of the events include: Community History Day, Community Tree Planting Day, Community Outreach Day, and Reclaim the Slough Day.

**Purpose:**

To help constituents safeguard their natural environment by focusing on a local waterway that illustrates several environmental justice issues.

**Products/Results:**

More than 370 local residents, youth and community leaders participated in the events. More than 1,230 community members were directly informed or contacted. Television and print news coverage brought the issues and activities around the Slough to the people of the Portland metropolitan region. Created a database of 90 organizations and contacts.

**Goals:**

- To introduce residents to the Slough, its problems and the groups and agencies that are working to solve them.
- To help establish permanent information sources about local pollution

**Successes/ Strengths:**

Surveys indicated that 65% knew nothing at all before the program, and 79% rated the issues as high or somewhat high priority after the program. Partnered with local and regional agencies influencing the Columbia Slough. Established collaborative relationships with a number of community organizations.

**Methods:**

- Sponsor a series of special events at the Slough to increase community awareness of the Slough.
- Build a sense of community ownership and demonstrate the scope of environmental

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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#### ***Ground Water Testing in the Toppenish Basin of the Yakima Indian Reservation***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ990918-01	<b>Project Coordinators:</b> Virginia Brown, Chair Science and Mathematics Hossein Divanfar, PhD, Professor of Chemistry Heritage College, Project Director 3240 Fort Road Toppenish, WA 98948	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1997	<b>Focus:</b> Water Quality
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**Target Audience:**

Stakeholder members of the Yakima Indian Reservation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Indian Health Service.

**Purpose:**

To address potential groundwater contamination in the Toppenish Basin of the Yakima Indian Reservation. Water samples from wells were collected and analyzed to determine the amount of chemical contamination they contain from agricultural irrigation, applications of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemical treatments.

**Goals:**

- To enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information systems, and generate information on pollution in the community.
- Facilitate communication and information exchange, student involvement in science and the environment, and create partnerships among stakeholders to address disproportionate, high and adverse environmental exposure to chemicals.

**Methods:**

- Heritage College environmental science students were trained to monitor 20 testing sites. Testing took place for more than a 10-month time period. The final month allowed for analysis and presentation of the results.

**Products/Results:**

More than 300 water samples were taken from around the Toppenish Basin to determine the quality of the drinking water. Able to identify areas where residents are exposed to contaminated drinking water and target areas for further work. A cadre of trained environmental science students are now qualified to participate in periodic ongoing water quality control activities of the Yakima Indian Nation. A better-informed resident population. The information helps monitor the health of humans and wildlife in the community.

**Successes/ Strengths:**

Involved a diverse group of environmental science students and provided them with hands-on experience. Encouraged minority students to pursue careers in science and the environment. Strengthened partnerships and understanding of local groundwater issues. The results will serve to provide information in a plan for long-term safe drinking and irrigation water.

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### *Quality from the Kootenai Landfill Area*

**Grant Number:**  
EQ990665-01

**Project Coordinators:**  
Ernest L. Stengar, Chairman  
Coeur d'Alene Tribal Counsel,  
David Barr, Natural Resources Division  
Route 1, Box 11-F.A.  
Plummer, ID 83851

**EPA Funding:**  
\$20,000  
FY 1996

**Focus:**  
Water Quality

**Target Audience:**

Kootenai County Commissioners and staff and local residents.

**Purpose:**

To examine the operations of the Kootenai County Fighting Creek Landfill to determine if there was a need for modifications which would reduce or eliminate the emissions of gas and the resulting odors.

**Goals:**

- To address the issue of the methane-like gas emitted from the Fighting Creek Landfill, and to coordinate the development of a common ground for resolving the odor problem.
- To obtain an unbiased report assessing the environmental issues relating to the Landfill.

**Methods:**

- Surveys were done to determine what effects the emissions from the site had on these residents.
- A formal monitoring site using EPA equipment determined the makeup of the emissions.

- A summary report was prepared showing the trends from the water monitoring data taken by the Fighting Landfill Staff. Provided the information to the downstream residents as a continuing education process. The tribe took water samples on a monthly basis and incorporated into a final report.

**Products/Results:**

An "Assessment of Noxious Landfill Odors" study was completed. Articles were printed in the local newspapers, the Press, Roundup, the Handle and Kootenai County. This report was retained to develop an unbiased report showing what measures could be taken by the landfill to upgrade the collection and burning of the landfill gases.

**Successes/ Strengths:**

As a result of community involvement, attendance at county commissioner meetings, the Commissioners have agreed to address the problem. Education and outreach addressing a local Environmental issue.

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### *The Native Village of Kwinhagak*

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ990443-01	<b>Project Coordinator:</b> Mr. Wassilie Bavilla, President Wuinhagak IRA Council Quinhagak, AL Anthony Caole General Delivery Quinhagak, AK 99655	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1995	<b>Focus:</b> Water Quality
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**Target Audience:**  
Tribal Community, Visitors and Sportsmen

fishermen, floaters, boaters, campers, and other nonresident users to the effects of leaving waste.

**Purpose:**

The purpose is to lower the levels of coliform and enterococci bacteria in the Kanektok River caused by waste left from sport fishermen and campers. The waste may cause potential health hazards if the untreated water is consumed. A program is needed to educate all users of the surrounding river area of the importance of controlling and reducing all types of waste. This grant enabled the Council to take a proactive step toward eliminating the health risks associated with fecal contamination of the village's water.

- The Knock & Talk method is used to inform users of the rules and regulations on the river.

**Products/Results:**

As a result of the River Ranger's efforts, the Council expects to see fewer instances of trash left behind, of fish left on the banks to rot, and of improperly disposed of human waste. Students were also involved in development of an educational brochure.

**Successes/Strengths:**

The River Ranger gave warnings on the Wilderness Boundary lines and informed other River Rangers as to the regulations, therefore reducing the trespass violators. Newly distributed trash containers were always full, indicating that the plan has been working to minimize waste. The River Ranger informed people of the new regulations while distributing brochures with the listed goals.

**Goals:**

- To eliminate the health risks associated with fecal contamination in the Kanektok River. This will allow the local villagers continue to use the river for fresh untreated drinking water without a threat to their health.
- To educate users of the river on ways to control and reduce waste.

**Methods:**

- A River Ranger program will educate the sport

###

## Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

### *Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving*

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#### ***Correlation of Environmental Pollution Assaults on Minority Health and Disease in Pierce County***

<b>Grant Number:</b> EQ990674-01	<b>Project Coordinators:</b> Thomas Dixon, President Tacoma Urban League, Gary D. Winston, Vice President Program Services, Tacoma Urban League 2550 South Yakima Avenue Tacoma, WA 98405	<b>EPA Funding:</b> \$20,000 FY 1996	<b>Focus:</b> Pollution Prevention
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**Target Audience:**

Minority and low-income communities of Pierce County, the Tacoma area, and the Puyallup Indian Nation reservations

**Purpose:**

To assess environmental contaminant levels in air, water, and soil for Tacoma-area industrial facilities and examine the health risks of these pollution levels to minority and low-income residents.

**Methods:**

- Collection and consolidation of environmental databases that contain information on facilities, contaminated sites, and air and water pollution data.
- Gather health data from hospitals, clinics from the surrounding area.
- Identify low-income and minority population in the County using census information.
- Develop methods and analyze data relative to the target population.
- Initiate community outreach, education, and training in pollution prevention.

**Products/Results:**

This study examined the clusters of contaminated facilities in Tacoma in relation to the clusters of diseases in the Salishan low-income minority community. The report titled, "A Study on the Correlation of Environmental Contamination Effects on the Salishan Low-Income and Minority Community of Tacoma, WA." includes a number of maps, tables and data used in the analysis. The study indicated that there is a disproportionately higher incidence of disease within Salishan when compared to all of Tacoma and Pierce County.

**Successes/ Strengths:**

Increased community awareness and understanding of environmental justice issues through workshops, newspaper articles, and other outreach efforts. Involvement of students and local residents in evaluating the information and educating the community in pollution prevention. The identification of local environmental health threats and recommendations for further action in the diverse low-income Salishan community.

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**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**  
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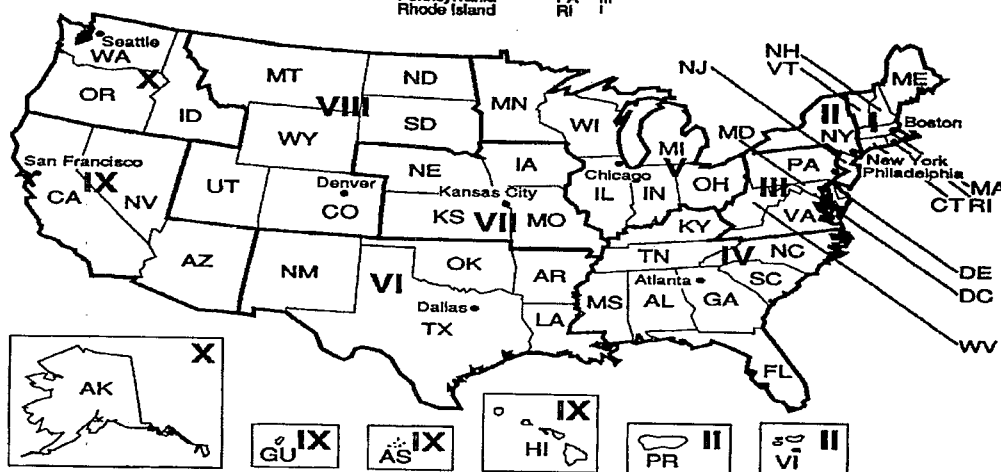
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# Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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### Appendix D

### *Environmental Justice Grant Contacts*

<b>Region 1</b>	<i>Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont</i> Ronnie Harrington, (617) 918-1703 USEPA Region 1 (SAA) One Congress Street - 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02114-2023
<b>Region 2</b>	<i>New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands</i> Natalie Loney (212) 637-3639 USEPA Region 2 290 Broadway, 26th Floor New York, NY 10007
<b>Region 3</b>	<i>Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia</i> Reginald Harris. (215) 814-2988 USEPA Region 3 (MC-3ECCO) 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103
<b>Region 4</b>	<i>Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee</i> Gloria Love (404) 562-9672 USEPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960
<b>Region 5</b>	<i>Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin</i> Margaret Millard (312) 353-1440 USEPA Region 5 (MC T-175) 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, IL 60604-3507
<b>Region 6</b>	<i>Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas</i> Teresa Cooks (214) 665-8145 USEPA Region 6 (6EN) 1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
<b>Region 7</b>	<i>Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska</i> Althea Moses (913) 551-7649 or 1-800-223-0425 USEPA Region 7 726 Minnesota Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101
<b>Region 8</b>	<i>Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming</i> Nancy Reish (303) 312-6040 USEPA Region 8 (8ENF-EJ) 999 18th Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2466
<b>Region 9</b>	<i>Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam</i> Katy Wilcoxon (415) 744-1565 USEPA Region 9 (A-2-2) 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105
<b>Region 10</b>	<i>Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington</i> Susan Morales (206) 553-8580 USEPA Region 10(MD-142) 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101
<b>National Program Manager</b>	Mary S. Settle (202) 564-2594 USEPA Headquarters 401 M Street, SW MC 2201A Washington, DC 20460

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